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ABSTRACT

This book looks at the relationship between language and effective leadership. It deals with the elements of leadership as applied to those in elected and other public offices--those in schools, such as principals and superintendents, as well as those in higher education--and those in the private sector. It aims to help readers understand the crucial impact of words on their ability to lead, heal, motivate, and chart a path to the future. Drawing from historical and literary sources and contemporary leadership practices, the book examines the art of principled and persuasive arguments. It focuses particularly on the process of gathering evidence on which to support an argument, showing how and where a leader who seeks information has a direct bearing on their legitimacy and credibility. Most importantly, the book addresses the moral and political dilemmas that leaders face and reflects on how a leader can foster a climate of public trust and open inquiry. Chapters in the book are the following: (1) Persuasion: A Critical Function of Leadership; (2) Information Seeking: Principles, Strategies, Costs; (3) The Ethics and Ecology of Persuasion; (4) The Political Context of Leadership; (5) Leadership, Reconciliation, and Reconstitution; and (6) Reflections and Directions. Notes for each chapter are collected at the end of the book. (NKA)

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